

PSC/Telecommunications Sustain Program FY13 – FY15

Over the past 30 years BPA has developed a Power System Control and Communications asset infrastructure that plays a critical role in the daily operation of the transmission grid to deliver safe, reliable, and cost effective electric energy to customers in the Northwest and California.

Assets covered by the PSC Sustain Program include over 13,000 pieces of communication equipment on the BPA transmission system. The equipment is comprised of telecom transport, support equipment, SCADA, FIN/Ops network, Transfer Trip, telephone systems and RAS equipment.

Over the past decade BPA has not replaced communications equipment at a rate that would sustain reliability over the long-term. As a result, BPA has significant backlogs of obsolete, failing equipment that is still in service today. Much of this equipment is difficult to repair and maintain with few spare parts and no manufacturer support, and in some cases, few if any components to repair failed modules. Obsolete equipment in fair working condition is difficult to properly integrate with new equipment which results in interoperability issues. Due to the age, condition, and interoperability problems associated with this backlog of obsolete equipment BPA is experiencing a significant number of PSC equipment failures and misoperations each year. This business case begins to address the backlog of replacement of obsolete equipment.

An asset strategy for PSC Sustain program was developed which focuses on replacement of equipment that is in poor condition and poses significant risk to reliable operation of the transmission system. This investment program implements that strategy for the period specified.